(b) and (c) Various steps like replacement of passenger trains by Mixed trains, introduction of 'One Engine Only' system, economy in staff, curbing ticketless travel closure of unremunerative stations and halts or converting them into contractor operated halts etc. have been taken to reduce the losses.

(d) Closure of 40 uneconomic branch lines recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee is being done in a phased manner in consultation with the concerned State Governments. So far, 14 such lines have been closed/dismantled.

संसद सदस्यों के लिये रेलगाड़ियों में आरक्षण कोटा

1838. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

श्री छोटूभाई पटेल :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पहले प्रत्यक रेलगाड़ी में संसद सदस्यों के लिये आरक्षण का कोटा होता था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उक्त आरक्षण प्रणाली को पुन आरंभ करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका : (क) दिल्ली क्षेत्र से चलने वाली/गुजरने वाली अधिकांश गाड़ियों में संसद सदस्यों के लिए आरक्षण कोटा बराबर उपलब्ध है ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Committee to review the passenger fare and freight rates

1839. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Committee recently to review the passenger fare and freight rates as reported in the Economic Times dated 21st April, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the Report if so, what are the recommendations made by it; and

(c) what decision Government propose to take or have taken so far implement the recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The Government have constituted Railway Fare and Freight Committee with effect from 24.10.1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, since the report is yet to be received.

Railway line to Connect Thakazhi-Thirnvala-Punallor

1840. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proopsal to construct a link Railway line to connect Thakazhi - Thirnvalla - Punaloor is under Government's consideration;

(b) whether Government propose to study the viability of this proposal in view of the tremendous commercial importance of the Central Kerala and the possibility of the above mentioned line to link the hilly and coastal regions of Kerala and its commercial and passenger utility; and

(c) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Increasing Rail Fractures

1841. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 42 dated 28-4-93 given in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) what is the average time it takes to fix a fracture after detection;

(b) whether it is a a fact that antiquated methods of replacing fractures on rail tracks are followed, leading to long delays for passengers;

(c) whether there is any programme to upgrade the type of rails used by Indian Railways; and

(d) if not, in what manner the railways propose to reduce the increasing number of rail track fractures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The time taken to repair the fracture generally depends upon its type and location. Normally, it does not take more than two hours to replace the fractured rails and restore the traffic. However, in many cases where delay is anticipated, temporary repairs are carried out and traffic restored at restricted speed.

(b) No, Sir, The latest standard established method is followed.

(c) The track structure on Indian Railways is being upgraded on the basis of intensity of traffic and speeds. Rails of higher weight and ultimate tensile strength are being increasingly used now by the Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Train

1842. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of special trains run between Delhi and Madras, Delhi and Trivandrum in summer during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of special trains Government propose to run this year between Delhi and Madras, and Trivandrum and Delhi; and

(c) whether Government would run some special trains between Madurai and Delhi during summer to clear the summer rush; if not what other steps are being taken to help the long distance passengers who are unable to get railway reseravtions at New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY. (SHRI K. C. LENKA). (a) and (b) Nil.

(c) No, Sir. However, in order to clear the rush towards the South a weekly Special train between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Alleppy is being run during this Summer.

Expenditure for Passenger Amenities

1843. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of total outlay, the Railways are spending for passenger amenities during last three years;